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Safe Pathways to School **Call for Projects (FY 2006/07)**

Applications are due June 29 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Introduction

In November 2004, Marin County voters approved Measure A, a half-cent sales tax to fund transportation projects in the county. The Measure A Sales Tax Expenditure Plan includes four funding strategies, one of which is a "Safe Routes to School" (SR2S) program. Safe Pathways is the capital improvement element of SR2S. It provides funding to design and construct projects identified in Safe Routes Plans developed by teams of schools, parents, students and local public works staff in conjunction with the larger SR2S program. Funding for Safe Pathways is set by the 2006 TAM Strategic Plan at close to \$11 million over the life of the Measure A tax. Safe Pathways projects will be selected for funding based on performance criteria that focus on improving safety throughout the County.

Eligible Applicants

Cities and the county may apply for funding through their public works departments; however they may partner with other public agencies, schools, nonprofits or other community organizations to apply under public works direction. Schools may also apply directly for funding. The Measure A Sales Tax Expenditure Plan specifies, however, that only jurisdictions that have produced Safe Routes Plans are eligible to apply for Safe Pathways funding.

Eligible Projects

Project funds may be used for engineering, environmental clearance and **construction of pathways, sidewalk improvements and traffic safety** in all Marin County communities. To be eligible for Safe Pathways funding, the various elements of a potential project must have been described in a Safe Routes Plan. Safe Routes Plans must be developed in a cooperative effort between members of a Safe Routes to Schools Team consisting of school officials and staff, parents and students. A primary element of Safe Routes Plans is the "walkabout" where the Team identifies routes to the school and areas for improvement, including capital projects. Completed Safe Routes Plans must be reviewed and signed by the local jurisdiction's public works department. The final Safe Routes Plan must reflect the support of parents, school officials and the local jurisdiction.

Application Submittal Requirements

All requests for Safe Pathways funding must be submitted on the Safe Pathways to School Capital Funding Application and must be prepared under the direction of the local jurisdiction's Public Works Director or City Engineer except in cases where schools are applying directly for funds. Although Public Works is not required to sign the latter applications, proposed projects in these applications must nevertheless reflect descriptions contained in Safe Routes Plans reviewed by Public Works.

Submit 10 sets of the complete application package and one electronic copy. Applications should contain no more than 30 pages, excluding letters of support. All applicants must use the Safe Pathways to School Capital Funding Application. No cover letter or special bindings. Please staple the application in the upper left hand corner.

Available Funding

Approximately \$1.7 million is available for this Call for Projects.

The maximum project funding request is \$250,000 for each project. Multiple applications may be submitted from a single public agency, but the funding cap has been formulated out of respect for the geographic equity criterion used in awarding funds.

Local Match

While no local match is required, an important element of the Safe Pathways program is the opportunity afforded by the project to leverage other fund sources and its ability to incorporate Safe Pathways elements into larger infrastructure projects. Also, to make the most productive use of available funds, Safe Pathways projects coordinated with other projects funded by Measure A funds, or federal funds or gas tax subventions from the state (i.e., Prop 42) will score highly, consistent with the expenditure plan evaluation criteria shown on page 3.

Because leveraging of funds to maximize Measure A investments is critical, TAM staff will compare the Safe Pathways project list with the project priority list for SRTS federal funds and with Measure A Major Roads and Local Roads projects. If applicable, staff may recommend adjusting priority and timing to incorporate Safe Pathways projects into Measure A Major Roads and Local Roads funded projects.

Application Review and Evaluation Process

As outlined in the Measure A Strategic Plan, applications for Safe Pathways funding will be evaluated by the TAC and the Marin Public Works Association (MPWA). TAM envisions a selection panel with members appointed from each of these bodies to review and score applications based on the following criteria specified in the Expenditure Plan:

- Relieves an identified safety or congestion problem along a major school route.
- Completes a “gap” in the bicycle and pedestrian system along a major school route.
- Maximizes daily uses by students and others.
- Attracts matching funds.
- Respects geographic equity

Based on the results of the evaluation process, the TAC will recommend projects to the TAM Board for funding under this Call for Projects and for inclusion in future amendments and/or updates to the Revenue and Expenditure element of the Strategic Plan.

Claimant Procedures

Successful Safe Pathways program applicants will execute a funding agreement with TAM covering project expenses on a reimbursement basis. Project sponsors must follow all Measure A Claimant Policies as set forth in Section IV A “Implementation Guidelines” of the Strategic Plan, which can be viewed on TAM’s website at www.tam.ca.gov.

In general, the sponsoring agency must request an allocation of funds from and execute a funding agreement with TAM. The funding agreement will describe the project/program scope, the anticipated schedule, and an estimated cash flow of Measure A funds. The agreement will also specify the responsibilities of both TAM and the project sponsor, consistent with the Guidelines. Allocations of Safe Pathways funding shall follow the requirements set forth for “Project Specific Funding” in the third bullet of Section IV.A.3., “Allocation and Disbursement of Funds” of the Strategic Plan. Upon approval by the TAM Board of the allocation request, the project sponsor may then submit to TAM requests for reimbursement for approved Safe Pathways project expenses.

Application Submittal Deadline

All applications for Safe Pathways to School funding must be submitted by June 29 2007 at 5:00 p.m. to:

Transportation Authority of Marin
Safe Pathways Call for Projects 2007/08
Attn: Eric Schatmeier, Planning Manager
70 San Pablo Ave.
San Rafael, CA 94903

TAM Staff Contact

For further information or questions regarding the program, please contact:

Eric Schatmeier
Planning Manager
Transportation Authority of Marin
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